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# THE LINK

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Methodist Link Churches Magazine

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April 2016 Volume 51. No. 3.

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## ***EASTER GREETINGS*** ***To all our readers***



The Crosses on Brent Knoll Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016

# Ministers Letter

Dear Friends,

Whenever you plan to go on a journey there are a number of things that need to be organised, and forgetting them can cause problems when you are on the journey itself. The tickets, the passport, care for pets, even a ready supply of medication all need to be sorted. There is no point in only remembering them when you are away! The same is true of our life journey with Jesus. Although we have already started our life journey with him, still we need to ensure that we are prepared for the journey ahead, to be ready for when we are called in his service, to be ready for the things we will encounter as we travel with Christ, the ups and downs, the joys and the trials.

There is preparation to do, things to tick off the list, to be better able to undertake this trip of a lifetime.

- The first step is to commit to the journey, to want to travel with Jesus in our life.
- The second step is to ensure that we know Jesus as well as we can, so that we can distinguish his voice from the many voices that try to direct our time and energy.
- The next step is to equip ourselves with the right luggage, and Ephesians 6: 10 – 18 speaks about the things we should take with us.
- Then comes obedience; the need to stick to the rules, to set off and do as we are directed by God.

In all of these things we can find help in the church from fellow Christians. People in our churches are on the same journey and can share their experiences with us. People know Jesus personally and can help us find his voice, people are clothed in the armour of God, and people can help us when we are tempted to break the rules, because they have been there themselves. But that is no help if we don't talk together.

The Circuit Meeting encouraged all churches in the Circuit to increase the number of fellowship groups. The challenge is for you. Are you part of a group that meets other than for the Sunday service to talk about your faith? If not, would you like to be part of a group, host a group, or lead a group? If God is challenging you as you read this, please contact me or a church steward to see what can be achieved. After all, we get to know people best by being with them and sharing with them; and as we do we encounter Jesus and learn to hear his word on our journey too.

Steve



## Calendar

### MARCH

- |     |                  |               |     |  |
|-----|------------------|---------------|-----|--|
| Fri | 25 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am       | B/H | Good Friday Service led by Rev Steve Bennett Followed by WALK OF WITNESS               |
| Fri | 25th             | 10.00 - 12.00 | W/H | Coffee, Cake & Chat at West Huntspill  |
| Fri | 25th             | 6.00pm        | W/H | Good Friday Service led by Rev Steve Bennett   |
| Sat | 26th             | 10.00 - 12.00 | B/H | Shoppers Coffee at Burnham   |
| Sun | 27th             | 6.00 AM       |     | Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at Brean Down (please note clocks go forward that night) |

### APRIL

- |      |     |               |     |   |
|------|-----|---------------|-----|---|
| Sat  | 2nd | 10.00 - 12.00 | B/H | Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Choir                  |
| Sat  | 2nd | 3.00pm        |     | Janice Barrett Accreditation Service At St Andrew's W s M |
| Wed  | 6th | 8.00pm        | B/H | Wednesday Group - Beadwork Demonstration by Sandra Moon   |
| Thur | 7th | 7.00pm        | B/H | Burnham Annual Church Meeting                             |
| Sat  | 9th | 10.00 - 12.00 | B/H | Shoppers Coffee at Burnham                                |

- Sat 9th 7.00pm B/H INDIAN EVENING with meal £7.50 per Person Come and share in an Indian meal and hear about the visits of Steve and Liz Bennett to West Bengal
- Tue. 12th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship Rev. Marion Hance.
- Sat 16th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H League of Friends Coffee Mornings at Burnham Methodist
- Sun 17th **LAST DAY FOR THE MAY LINK**
- Sun 17th 3.00pm Easter Offering Service at Milton.
- Sun 17th 6.00pm B/H Cafe Church T B A
- Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10.00 B/H Sponsored Wiggle Walk at Mums & Tots in aid of Action for Children
- Sat 23rd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham
- Sat 23rd 7.30pm. The Burnham & Highbridge Choral Society Concert at St Andrew's Church
- Tue. 26th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship Deacon Gary Hoare
- Sat 30th 10.00 - 1.30 B/H Spring Fair at Burnham
- Sat 30th 10.30am B/K Brent Knoll Spring Coffee Morning and "Bring and Buy Sale"

## **MAY**

- Wed 4th 8.00pm B/H Wednesday Group - Informal Games & Supper
- Sat 7th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning by Dorothy & Helpers
- Tue. 10th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship Mrs Linda Trebble – Musical Personalities.
- Sat 14th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham
- Sun 15th Christian Aid Week starts
- Sat 21st 10.00 - 12.00 B/H League of Friends Coffee Mornings at Burnham Methodist
- Sun 22nd 6.30pm Circuit Service at Victoria W s M
- Sun 22nd **LAST DAY FOR THE JUNE LINK**  
**B/H Burnham, BR Brean, B/K Brent Knoll, E/B East Brent, W/H West Huntspill**

# **INDIAN EVENING**

with meal

**9<sup>th</sup> April 7.00pm**

Come and share in an Indian meal  
and hear about the visits of  
**Steve and Liz Bennett** to  
**West Bengal**

Tickets £7.50 per person  
from Steve or Liz by April 6th.

# **SPRING FAIR**

**Burnham Methodist Church**

**Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>**

**10.00 – 1.30**

Coffee & Teas

Stalls to include Cakes, Books, Bric a Brac, Crafts,  
Plants, Jewellery & Raffle.

Lunches 11.30 – 1.00pm

Proceeds for The Roof Fund

## **Café church date at Burnham**

We meet on the third Sunday evening in the  
month at 6.00 pm

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 6.00 pm TBA



# Concert

## A Mass For Peace

On 23rd April 2016 at 7.30pm the Burnham & Highbridge Choral Society will be performing the ever popular 'The Armed man' - A Mass for Peace by Carl Jenkins at St. Andrew's Church, Burnham-on-sea.

This will be the second time that the choir have sung this piece of music. The first time was in 2006, when they were the first choir in Somerset to perform it. In 2015 some of the members were lucky enough to sing this at the Royal Albert Hall, in front of the composer who was in the audience.

This year's performance will be led by their M.D Nicholas Bromilow. They will be accompanied by a small vibrant orchestral ensemble and two soloists, Katy Garden and Amon-Ra Twilley. The choir will also be singing a selection from 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat'.

Tickets £7.50 and £4 for children, will be available from Material Needs, Burnham on Sea, Choir members or at the door.

# EAST BRENT

As I write this we are approaching Easter but by the time you read it we will have completed our Lent Courses, climbed The Knoll and Brean Down & completed a Walk of Witness amongst many other Easter events.

Our shared services with Brean and Brent Knoll during the winter months continue to be popular. It is nice to see how our neighbours do things and dare I say it, nice to have a morning off from our duties in our own churches, whether it is meeting and greeting or making the coffee.

We are pleased to welcome Margaret Scott back to East Brent after her 6 week trip to Australia to visit her son and his family. Thank you to others who have all picked up one or more of her duties in her absence.

Our solar panels are now in situ and generating electricity. At our recent church council we finally decided to remove the pews in the church. We are currently making some choices as to which chairs will be most practical for all of our church members. It is thanks to the hard work of our stewards and the generosity of other members of our congregation that this has been possible.

Rosemary Gilling



# BURNHAM

[www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk](http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk)

## STEWARDS COLUMN.

Spring has arrived, the daffodils are out, lambs are being born and we have a new car park wall, so many new things.

There is also a lot happening in the church, lunches, coffee mornings, a spring fair, worship, property, church and life mission groups, new evening services and cafe church are just some – do come and join us. Don't forget to check the notices, look out for future events and pass this on to others, there really is something for everyone.

In my last link column, I touched on the subject of 'many hands make light work' – please keep this in mind and if there is anything you can do to help, however small you think it is, come and talk to us.

In one of my first link columns I wrote about 'loneliness', how do we know if someone is lonely? One of our new events is the tea and chat afternoons for everyone in the community. The next event will be at the Church on 18<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm

We would like to thank everyone for their part in supporting the church and it's activities and wish you all the best for 2016

Marian Kingsbury





# BREAN

[www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org](http://www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org)

Happy Easter to everyone from us all at Brean. Some of us (and I'm not committing myself at this stage) will have ventured forth with Steve to welcome in the dawn on Brean Down. From there we will have surveyed the whole circuit and rejoiced together in the momentous event we celebrate on Easter morning. And I guess that breakfast on this day will have been much appreciated.

On Palm Sunday we saw the first of our summer visitors. There might have been others previously but unfortunately for them we were all worshipping elsewhere; on the first Sunday of March we were at St Bridget's and the next week we were at East Brent. It is good to see old friends returning and sharing in worship and a cup of coffee together. Our own congregation can be stretched at this time for Rose is busy lambing and those animals don't seem to appreciate that Sunday is a day of rest and spiritual refreshment! And then of course there are the demands of the holiday trade.

During Lent we shared with our Anglican friends in a course on the Eucharist. It was a very Anglican orientated course but it helped us to look at that sacrament with new understanding even if we didn't see it in the same way as our friends 'across the road'.

A small number of us gave up our Sunday afternoon nap and struggled to the top of Brent Knoll on Palm Sunday to witness the erection of the three crosses there. It was a cool afternoon but I think we were glad that we made the effort. About 40 people turned up from across the area and denominations. This has become a tradition now having been set up by the Methodist Church in the early 1980s but is now organised by Churches Together in Burnham & District. Seeing youngsters running around in our midst brought back memories of when our own children were of that age and the Palm Sunday afternoon was an adventure for them.

April is upon us, the clocks have gone forward and summer awaits. Amid so much conflict and division going on in the country and the world we are called to come together in the spirit of Christ; let it be a strength and hope to us all

Harvey Allen



## WEST HUNTSPILL

Our usual Coffee and Chat Morning will be on  
Friday April 29<sup>th</sup> 10am – 12md



Have you twinned your toilet?

I expect some of you will have already heard of this scheme, but I hadn't until I read about it in the magazine from the Taunton Circuit. I thought it was such a good idea, and a way to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves. The scheme is run by Tear fund if you haven't already done so, please, go to the web site [www. toilettwinning.org](http://www.toilettwinning.org) to find out more and perhaps twin your toilet, to help enable a community in an economical poor country to have access to safe, hygienic and private toilets, something we all take for granted.



**Christian Aid Week**  
**15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016**

Yes, It that time of year again, I'm sure I don't need to tell you how important this work in the world today. Christian Aid works for fundamental change, supporting vulnerable communities around the world, working with people of all faiths and none. If anyone feels they could help to raise funds, taking part in house to house collection, standing, (or sitting ) in a supermarket with a bucket for an hour. You might prefer to invite friends and neighbours in for a cup of coffee or afternoon tea. If you can help in any way, please contact Maureen on 01278783774 or Catherine on 01278788776. Thank You.

This is the story I mentioned last month which Reverend Duncan Tuck told at “The day of Prayer for Christian Unity”

I want to tell you of a stone that was rolled away for someone I met, many years ago. This highlights our prejudices, our need to be prepared to meet people where they are, and to be the salt of the earth that gives flavour and hope. So let me tell this true story:

I was uncertain about Beryl. She seemed nice enough: overweight, well-dressed. In her twenties. I guessed. She came into our worship service, one evening, and I wondered if a problem loomed.

After the service, we talked. She was new in town; recently moved from Yorkshire – a new job, new life. Alone, in a strange environment, seeking fellowship, a place to express her faith, to feel at home.

After family consultations, I invited her to a meal. We quickly realised that Beryl was nervous. She talked: right through the preparations, the meal, and afterwards. Yet she laughed a lot. And, slowly, her laugh became more natural and less forced.

In the middle of this, some aspects of our family life, which we took for granted, astounded her. First: I had made the dessert. I often like to fiddle with culinary creations. But Beryl saw this as almost a revelation from God. “You didn’t really make it?” she kept saying “Did you?” Beryl was also surprised by my nine-year old son Simon. Simon has never been shy with strangers. Within minutes of Beryl’s arrival, Simon showed her the knitting he had started, to make a scarf. Like his mum, he enjoyed knitting. Beryl was flabbergasted. “I’ve never seen a boy knit before!” she exclaimed. Simon merely grinned and attempted another row. Eventually, the coffee drunk, we washed up, and Beryl returned to her flat. The house seemed suddenly quiet. I wondered if I had been wrong with my first assessment of Beryl. Perhaps she was merely a shy stranger in a strange land. The phone call came some weeks later. Beryl was now a regular worshipper, and had settled well. So I was surprised. “Can you come over?” she asked. “I want to talk to you about something important”.

A warning sign flashed in my mind. So I asked if I could bring a woman with me: an astute member of the congregation. “Not a woman,” Beryl replied. “But you can bring another man. You’ll find out why.” So I attended her flat, with Matthew, an aged and gentle member who listened well. I had briefed Matthew. We were intrigued.

Beryl made coffee and took a deep breath. “This is not easy to say,” she started, “but I’m not really a woman. I’m a man. My name is John.”

We listened, agog, to John’s story. John had grown up in a down-to-earth working man’s home. His father was a bluff Yorkshire man who believed a man should be firm and strong: he should smoke and drink, swear like a trooper, and not flinch to work his fingers to the bone. Anyone not like that was suspect. John, however, had been born with a sensitive spirit. He was not rough and tough, but liked to arrange flowers and cook. He enjoyed needlework and painting. In short, he disappointed his father, who never neglected to say so John grew to think there was something deeply wrong with him. He wanted to be a man, but believed he was really a woman trapped in a man’s body. He became secretive and shy. He would slip out at night wearing women’s clothing. Inevitably, one night he could stand the double life no longer, and left home. John began to live as a woman.

It was this woman who, after a couple of years as a wanderer, found the way to my church. Matthew was speechless. I had a burning question. “Tell me,” I asked. “What made you change your mind?” It turned out that it was me, and my family, that had affected him. John had been convinced he was really a woman in the wrong body... until he shared that meal with us. He then began to see the lie he had swallowed. He had believed the myth of the rough, tough male. When he saw me- male, with a happy family – make a desserts and do the washing up, it jolted him. When he saw Simon – an energetic, football-loving son – sit and knit, it had torn him open.

John began to realise that masculinity is not dependant on social conditioning. It is possible to be male, as God intended, yet also sensitive and caring. John's problem was nothing to do with sexual orientation – he didn't fancy other men – or physical difference. Instead it was all to do with an upbringing that didn't fit his nature.

We prayed. We pledged our support for his courageous step to cease the pretence. I promised to accompany him to the clinic and explain. And, that Sunday, he turned up at church without wig or dress. He still had a long way to go, but he took the first step. With God's help, we were prepared to walk with him, without condemnation, through all the strains and pressures of his attempt to be his true self.

Eventually, John went home to Yorkshire, to confront his Dad with the person God had made him to be. I never heard from him again.

Submitted by: Janet Thompson



# **BRENT KNOLL**

[www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com](http://www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com)

**Minister Rev. Steve Bennett**

It was a real joy, as always, to see the young people at our Mothering Sunday service in March - and they were simply brilliant. They read the (lengthy) Gospel reading beautifully, helped out with the collection and distributed the flowers to the congregation. And they even did the washing up after the service so a huge thank you to them. A thank you also goes out to Carol and Margaret who arranged the posies which were perfectly Spring-like and much appreciated by all who received them (at the time of writing I still have mine sitting pretty on my coffee table).

For those of us able to make it, I'm sure we all agree that we shared a wonderful time of celebration at Heather Gale's accreditation service as a Local Preacher at Milton. It was such a happy occasion and really felt like the Circuit event it should be as we all took part acknowledging Heather's achievement. We now look forward to Janice's service at St Andrew's on 2 April.

Now that Spring has finally sprung a reminder that we'll be holding our annual Spring coffee morning and bring and buy sale at 10.30 on Saturday 30 April - all are welcome as we look forward to seeing our Link friends.

Wishing you all a very happy start to the new season from all of us at Brent Knoll.

God bless

Rosemary Krull

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Deadline for the May 2016 “LINK” is Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2016</b></p>
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